



# HEART IMPRINTS

**A worship resource for children** in the congregation, elementary school, or early childhood ministry

Dear Children's Worship Planner,

In conjunction with the worship planning resources produced by the hymnal committee for our Sunday worship planners, WELS Congregational Services is excited to bring you an additional resource focused on children. Whether you are leading a devotion for a mother's group, giving a children's sermon, or planning chapel for your Sunday School, Early Childhood Ministry, or Lutheran Elementary School, this resource provides ideas for your message that will coordinate with the church year and the worship being planned on Sunday.

Consisting of a Bible reading, an object lesson, and outline that articulates the law and gospel, and a suggested order of service, Heart Imprints is the descendant of the NPH resource entitled *Chapel Talks for Christian Children* which was last produced in the 2010-2011 school year. While Chapel Talks was produced based on a school year calendar, Heart Imprints will be available year-round.

## BIBLE TRUTH

God wants his words to be on our hearts and for us to impress them on our children (Deuteronomy 6:6,7). Jesus implores us to allow children to come to him and warns against leading them into sin (Matthew 18:5-6). Since children need to learn how to worship and praise God and to listen to his word, it is good and right that we structure worship for children with orders and messages designed specifically for them. We pray that this tool is a blessing to you as you imprint Jesus on the hearts of the children entrusted to your care.

On my heart imprint your image,  
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures  
Have no pow'r to hide your face.

This the superscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation,  
And my glory and salvation.  
CW(93) 319

## SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Many churches utilize a 3 year cycle of readings called a pericope. These readings, selected from the Bible, are intended to ensure exposure to the entire scope of Scripture, namely that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Heart Imprints are intended to follow the scheduled readings for the week.

This resource begins in Series B and completes the Church year (August through November). The readings of Series C will be used beginning in Advent. For each week, one of the weekly readings has been chosen for the chapel service. A special verse or verses has been chosen as the text for the message. Hymn selections from both Christian Worship 1993 and 2021 have been included.

## SEASONAL LITURGY

A suggested liturgy is included. Repetition of the liturgy over multiple weeks helps students gain confidence in worship participation.

## THE MESSAGE

Each weekly message includes an outlined object lesson, Bible truth, discussion questions, and a prayer. A simplified version has been included if you are leading very young children in worship.

## MUSIC

Hymn references are provided for both Christian Worship (1993) and Christian Worship (2021).

You may also choose to use a song that you are having students prepare for Sunday worship or a song that your young students are familiar with if presenting to Pre-K.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR LEADING DEVOTIONS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Be consistent in having chapel on a regular basis.

Learn the names of the children and call on them by name.

Keep it simple and short. Have one clear message or take-away and keep the details simple.

Involve them in some way. Throughout the message ask them to repeat significant words. For example, in the story of Palm Sunday, ask them to repeat the word "Hosanna!"

Lutheran school principals, teachers and pastors have permission to reproduce pages for use in their school worship services. Reproduction for sale is prohibited.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV ®) © 2019 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved.

Hymn texts with the abbreviation CW93 are from Christian Worship A Lutheran Hymnal, copyright © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Hymn texts with the abbreviation CW21 are from Christian Worship A Lutheran Hymnal, copyright ©2021 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Intersperse questions throughout the message.

Use visual aids that connect with the message and that help the children remember the main point.

Use the church art and architecture. Help them learn the components of the sanctuary when appropriate. Part of the chapel experience for young children is learning about the church space and how to worship. You are helping to train young worshipers.

Toddlers and preschoolers may not be quiet listeners throughout. This is how they learn. Work for a balance of listening to them and keeping the message going.

Get feedback from teachers and ask for suggestions.

Observe teachers as they teach a Bible lesson to pick up on teaching tips.

Use Law and Gospel. Don't worry about trying to be cute. Keep the focus on Jesus and you will see that the children will help you to do this.

*Heart Imprints a Worship Resource for children in the congregation, elementary school, or early childhood ministry* is copyright © 2021 Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod N16 W23377 Stone Ridge Drive, Waukesha, WI. wels.net.

Contact [lutheranschools@wels.net](mailto:lutheranschools@wels.net) with questions.

Numerous authors have contributed to the creation of this resource. We thank them for their time and service.

